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EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO
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Horticultural Technician Apprenticeship Program

A **horticultural technician** works with plants and has knowledge and skills in ornamental horticulture and plant health care. Using tools and machinery, this person installs, grows, and maintains indoor and outdoor plants; builds urban and rural landscapes; maintains outdoor properties; cares for turfgrass and golf courses; and installs and maintains irrigation systems.

Horticultural technician is a **non-restricted certified** trade regulated by the Apprenticeship and Certification Act. On successfully completing the apprenticeship program, a person working in this trade is entitled to a Certificate of Apprenticeship and can challenge the trade examination to obtain a Certificate of Qualification.

Entrance requirements
Grade 12 or equivalent

Program duration
About three years or as determined by industry guidelines

Work description
A horticultural technician is a person who:

- communicates effectively to achieve results
- controls plant pests and diseases using various methods, including integrated pest management
- transplants and installs plants
- maintains and manages horticultural properties
- recycles waste materials
- identifies nutrient requirements of plants, applies fertilizers, and monitors the plants and maintains records of results of applications
- analyses plant watering requirements, installs irrigation systems, and monitors and records results
- grows plants using different propagation techniques and maintains records of results
- prunes plants, considering timing and tools
- establishes and maintains turfgrass
- constructs landscapes according to drawings, using plans and other materials such as wood, stone, soil, and concrete
- maintains and stores tools and equipment
- works in compliance with workplace safety legislation

ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

At the time of registration, an apprentice receives an **Apprenticeship Training Standard**, which outlines the skills training objectives to be met or competencies to be acquired on the job. These competencies equip an apprentice to work in the trade as a certified skilled worker or "journeyperson". The employer or sponsor or trainer of an apprentice signs the relevant section of the training standard to indicate the progress of the apprentice in meeting individual training objectives. This signature demonstrates that an apprentice has learned the skills established by industry that are essential for being a skilled worker.

IN-SCHOOL TRAINING

Horticultural technician apprentices require two levels of theoretical training: the 8-week basic and 12-week advanced levels. This training is offered at an approved training delivery agency on a block-release (full-time) basis during the winter months.

At the time of registration, the training consultant discusses the schooling options with the apprentice to determine the most suitable arrangements for the apprentice and the sponsor/employer.

In-school training for horticultural technician apprentices includes instruction in:

- plant science and botany
- basic and advanced turfgrass management
- basic and advanced plant identification
- basic and advanced plant materials
- applied trade mathematics
- basic and advanced landscape construction
- pest management
- landscape equipment maintenance
- plant material and plant handling techniques
- plant propagation techniques
- irrigation (components, pipe layout, and spray rates)
- site layout, and grading and drainage
- workplace communication
- applied safety procedures
- St. John Ambulance first aid

Ontario

December 2007

APPRENTICESHIP FACT SHEET

Apprenticeship – What is it and how does it work?

Apprenticeship is a hands-on training program for people who want to work in skilled trades or occupations. About 90% of apprenticeship involves on-the-job training by sponsors of training or employers. The remainder involves related theoretical training, usually obtained at a college of applied arts and technology or another approved training delivery agency.

Training agreements between apprentices and their training sponsor or employer are prepared by training consultants at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. In accordance with legislation, each training agreement is an individualized contract or training plan between a person who wants to learn a skilled trade and a training sponsor or an employer.

Apprentices and training sponsors or employers benefit from apprenticeship training. Apprentices learn to become qualified tradespeople or "journeypersons", while training sponsors or employers gain highly skilled employees with up-to-date knowledge and work techniques. Jobs in skilled trades provide challenging work and good careers.

How long does an apprenticeship last?

Most apprenticeships take two to five years to complete, depending on the trade. At the time of registration, prior education and related work experience are considered, where appropriate, to potentially reduce the length of the program. Flexible in-school training options are generally available to meet the specific needs of apprentices and their training sponsor or employer.

How does a person register for an apprenticeship?

When a person who wants to be an apprentice has found a training sponsor or employer willing to engage in apprenticeship training, either the person or the training sponsor or employer should contact the local apprenticeship office. A training consultant will arrange a meeting at the workplace to assess the ability of the training sponsor or employer to train and assess the person, prepare the training agreement or contract, and initiate the training.

Can a student start an apprenticeship while attending high school?

Yes. The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program offers students who have completed Grade 10 an opportunity to become registered apprentices while finishing high school. Eligible students should contact their guidance counsellor, technical director, or local apprenticeship office for more information.

What is "Interprovincial" designation?

The Interprovincial Standards Program or Red Seal Program was established to provide greater labour mobility for skilled workers who wish to move from one part of Canada to another. It encourages the standardization of provincial/territorial training and certification programs. A Red Seal certificate is recognized by provinces participating in the program. Many Ontario trades are part of the Red Seal Program. In these trades, people who are eligible to challenge the trade examinations may, if successful, receive a Certificate of Qualification with a distinctive red seal that allows them to work in other provinces and territories.

APPRENTICESHIP OFFICES

Central District

Toronto	(416) 326-5800
Pickering	(905) 837-7721
Mississauga	(905) 279-7333
Barrie	(705) 737-1431

Western District

Hamilton	(905) 521-7764
Brantford	(519) 756-5197
St. Catharines	(905) 704-2991
Owen Sound	(519) 376-5790
London	(519) 675-7788
Sarnia	(519) 542-7705
Waterloo	(519) 571-6009
Windsor	(519) 973-1441
Chatham	(519) 354-2766

Eastern District

Ottawa	(613) 731-7100
Brockville	(613) 342-5481
Cornwall	(613) 938-9702
Kingston	(613) 545-4338
Pembroke	(613) 735-3911
Peterborough	(705) 745-1918
Belleville	(613) 968-5558

Northern District

Sault Ste. Marie	(705) 945-6815
North Bay	(705) 495-8515
Sudbury	(705) 564-3030
Timmins	(705) 235-1950
Thunder Bay	(807) 345-8888
Kenora	(807) 468-2879

Employment Ontario Website Address:
www.ontario.ca/employmentontario

Employment Ontario Hotline: 1-800-387-5656
TTY: (416) 325-4084

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